

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Tape urges Iraqi attacks on U.S. forces

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In an audiotape broadcast Wednesday, a speaker purporting to be Saddam Hussein urged Iraqis to escalate attacks on Americans and called on U.S. and other coalition forces to leave the country “as soon as possible and without any conditions.”

The speaker, who sounded like the ousted Iraqi leader, also urged America’s international partners not to “fall prey in the traps of American foreign policy” and to reject any plan for Iraq that legitimizes military occupation.

He called on coalition leaders “to withdraw your armies as soon as possible and without any conditions, because there is no reason for further losses that will be disastrous for America if your officials ... continue their aggression.”

The speaker accused President Bush of lying to “your people and everyone” to justi-

fy the war against Iraq, adding that “the losses in your army ... makes your declaration of defeat and your retreat inevitable, if not today, tomorrow.”

Bush launched the war in March after accusing Saddam of ignoring U.N. orders to account for his weapons of mass destruction, which the Iraqis insisted they no longer had. U.S. investigators have been unable to find such weapons.

The 14-minute tape attributed to Saddam was broadcast by the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya satellite television station. News editor Aymen Gaballah said the tape was received Wednesday in Baghdad after someone called the station and told them where to find it.

The station said it aired the tape in its entirety. It was at least the eighth such message attributed to Saddam since his ouster.

The speaker said the tape was recorded in mid-Septem-



AP

Iraqis watch a television broadcast of an audio tape purported to be the voice of Saddam Hussein in an electronics shop in Baghdad on Wednesday.

ber, which could not be confirmed. There also was no way to immediately verify if the voice was indeed Saddam; intelligence officials said the CIA was reviewing it.

Addressing Iraqis, the speaker said he was bringing “pleasant news” that “losses

have begun to eat away at the enemy like wildfire.” He urged Iraqis to “increase your grip and armed struggle” and called on them to show their anger by attacks, demonstrations, graffiti and financial contributions to the resistance.”

GI gets 25 years in Ecstasy conviction

Soldier in Vilseck reportedly distributed 13,000 pills in 18 months

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

A Vilseck, Germany-based soldier will spend the next 25 years behind bars for selling and distributing the popular party drug Ecstasy.

In a two-day jury trial last week, Army Pvt. Christopher Peiffer was found guilty of distributing 13,000 Ecstasy pills over an 18-month period, according to Capt. Brian Sardelli, lead prosecutor in the case.

The lengthy sentence is equivalent to the crime, Sardelli said.

“From the government’s perspective, I think it’s a just sentence, considering the number of pills he was found in possession of,” Sardelli said. “Twenty-five years is a long time to serve, but the thing that stands out is just the number of pills.”

“This is not your average case of 1,500 pills or something like that.”

Peiffer, a former soldier with the Headquarters, Headquarters Company

of the 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, was also given a dishonorable discharge, reduced in rank to E-1 and ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances.

According to court testimony, before he enlisted in the Army Peiffer devised a plan to distribute the drug along with Christopher Yerbey, a friend in Alabama.

The two would go to Amsterdam, buy the pills and Peiffer would ship the pills back to the States for Yerbey to distrib-

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USAF civilians given work time for working out

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Air Force civilians are now allowed to use up to three hours of work time each week for fitness activities, but anyone happily envisioning a leisurely nine holes of golf on Uncle Sam's dime had better think again.

"Golf, bowling and softball are not considered aerobic activities and no official time will be granted for activities of this type," Maj. Gen. John Spiegel, the Air Force's director of Personnel Policy, said in a letter announcing the new policy.

Defense civilians exercising during work hours "is not a new idea," Air Force spokeswoman Lt. Col. Jean Schaefer said in a Tuesday e-mail an-

swering a query about her service's policy.

The other services have had policies in place for several years that permit civilian employees to use "clock time" to work out.

The Navy implemented its policy and one for the Marine Corps on Feb. 14, 1992, and the Army began its own civilian exercise program four years later, on March 26, 1996, according to service documents.

So for the Air Force, the late June policy "was an attempt to try to reach parity with the other services," Schaefer said.

In fact, "this policy has been in the developmental stages since 2000," she said.

The Air Force is on a mission to banish a long-standing

reputation that its service-members are pampered folks who spend all their time in weatherproof cockpits or behind desks, not humping heavy rucksacks over miles of muddy hills.

Earlier this summer, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper decreed that the traditional Air Force fitness test — a bicycle ride — will in January change to include a 1.5-mile run and a series of push-ups and sit-ups.

Today's increased operational tempo and harsh mission environments demand more stamina and strength, Jumper said in explaining the change, which brings the Air Force more in line with fellow service fitness tests.

Now it's the civilians' turn — although no service, including the Air Force, requires its

nonmilitary workers to pass fitness tests.

The new policy doesn't allow Air Force civilians to skip off whenever they feel like it during the workday to play an impromptu pick-up basketball game.

First, individual commanders must decide whether to participate in the fitness program. If commanders approve, individual employees may participate if their direct supervisors give the OK.

But first, employees must submit a "physical fitness plan" that includes fitness goals, which activities he or she intends to perform to meet those goals and a physician's statement that says the employee is medically able to participate in physical fitness activities.

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Ecstasy

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ute.

"Pvt. Peiffer would take [the Ecstasy] back to the Vilseck area, and ship it via UPS where ... Yerbey would sell it," Sardelli said. "My understanding was ... Pvt. Peiffer was also skimming off the top and selling here."

After being tipped off by a confidential informant, Criminal Investigative Command officials caught Peiffer last October with 4,600 Ecstasy pills in his barracks room.

Peiffer is being held at the U.S. Army Confinement Facility at Mannheim, where a final decision will be made as to where he will serve his prison term, Sardelli said.

"My understanding is, because of the sentence, that he will be sent to [Fort] Leavenworth [Kan.]," he said.

There are currently 28 inmates out of a population of 450 at the Fort Leavenworth U.S. Disciplinary Barracks who are confined for drug possession, drug use or trafficking. All inmates at the

prison must have a sentence of at least seven years and one day in order to be confined there.

Yerbey was extradited to Germany where he was convicted and is currently serving a 3½-year jail term at a German confinement facility.

During their investigation, CIC agents discovered a second Vilseck soldier was also distributing Ecstasy tablets.

The soldier, Pvt. Michelle Lord of the 201st Forward Support Battalion, was caught selling the tablets to an undercover CIC agent. She was convicted in April and sentenced to 44 months in prison.

She also was called to testify against Peiffer at his court-martial.

The information from the investigation has been shared with other law enforcement officials in the hope that the two dealers in Amsterdam who sold to Peiffer will also be apprehended, Sardelli said.

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NATO closer to bigger role in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO nations are edging closer to an agreement that would launch military planning for an expansion of alliance peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, which are currently limited to the capital, Kabul, officials said Wednesday.

The officials said a decision to order NATO's military experts to draw up the plans could come within the next few days.

Any military plans would still need further approval from 19 NATO nations and the U.N. Security Council. Approval from the U.N. is widely expected.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and leading aid agencies have long urged an expansion of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul to help extend government authority

into the provinces, which are often under the sway of local warlords.

NATO currently provides 5,500 troops in Kabul under a U.N. mandate to maintain order in the capital and support the Afghan authorities. Around 11,500 foreign troops are also in Afghanistan in the U.S. force fighting the remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Widening the U.N. force could ease pressure on U.S. forces stretched by those operations in Afghanistan and the occupation of Iraq.

Last week, the United States and Germany asked NATO to consider widening the scope of the Kabul force to help protect mixed civilian and military teams heading out into provincial cities on reconstruction projects.

Germany, in particular, wants NATO and U.N. backing for its plan to send 200 troops to the northern region of Kunduz to back reconstruction efforts there.

Spanish judge indicts bin Laden, others

BY MARIA JESUS PRADES

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A Spanish judge indicted Osama bin Laden and 34 others Wednesday on charges of terrorism, including the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

In a nearly 700-page document, investigative magistrate Baltasar Garzon issued international arrest orders for bin Laden and seven others suspected in the Sept. 11 hijackings.

Spain served “as a place or base for resting, preparation, indoctrinating, support and financing” of al-Qaida, Garzon said.

The indictment charged bin Laden and nine others with membership in a terrorist organization and “as many crimes of terrorist murder ... as there were dead and injured” in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding in the mountains between Afghanistan and Pakistan, is already under indict-

ment in the United States for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Thousands of U.S.-led coalition troops and Afghan forces are searching for him.

Garzon said terrorism is one of the crimes included in Spain’s universal justice legislation, under which some offenses, such as crimes against humanity, can be tried here even if they were committed elsewhere. Garzon has used this law to try to prosecute abuses under military rule in Chile and Argentina.

The list of indicted suspects includes Tayssir Alouni, the Al-Jazeera journalist arrested Sept. 8 in Spain, and Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, who was accused of leading an al-Qaida cell in Spain and was arrested in Madrid in November 2001.

Six others believed to be in Spain also were indicted, but not all will be jailed, according to the order, which was obtained by The Associated Press. Garzon ratified jailing orders for 11 already in prison in Spain.

Suspect questioned in Swedish slaying

BY KARL RITTER

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Investigators on Wednesday said they would start questioning a man suspected of killing Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, and were performing a DNA analysis that could tie him to the murder.

Police stressed that the investigation was still ongoing, adding that they are searching for five other people who fit the profile they developed of Lindh’s killer.

“We are still interested in getting contact with the different persons that fit the profile,” spokeswoman Tina Gustafsson told The Associated Press. “They don’t want to lock the target on a specific person.”

The popular foreign minister was stabbed several times in the stomach, chest and arm in an upscale Stockholm department store Sept. 10, and died the next day after several hours of surgery. The crime shocked the nation and cast a shadow over the Sunday referendum to adopt the euro.

Clark joins race for presidency

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark entered a crowded and wide-open race for the Democratic presidential nomination on Wednesday.

“We’re going to run a campaign that will move this country forward, not back,” Clark said, promising to “talk straight to the American people.”

Clark, 58, became the 10th Democrat in the race that is up for grabs, joining a contest that has been under way for months. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean is the front-runner, but a solid majority of voters remain undecided and some party leaders believe the current field has underperformed.

“My name is Wes Clark. I am from Little Rock, Ark. And I am here to announce that I intend to seek the presidency of the United States of America,” he began.

He entered with no experience in elective office and no history on domestic policy, but offered one thing Democrats crave: New hope of undercutting President Bush’s wartime popularity.

Clark immediately took aim at President Bush, saying his economic policies “have cost us more jobs than our economy has had the energy to create.”

The former Vietnam veteran and commander of all NATO forces in Europe also said that, “More than 100,000 American troops are fighting abroad and once again Americans are concerned about their civil liberties.”

Thousands evacuate coast as Isabel nears

The Associated Press

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. — Traffic streamed inland from the vulnerable Outer Banks on Wednesday as thousands of residents and visitors alike headed for higher ground ahead of approaching Hurricane Isabel. Thousands more were ordered to evacuate in Virginia.

By midday Wednesday, more than 200,000 people in North Carolina and Virginia had been told to evacuate, with orders stretching be-

yond the coast into low-lying inland areas and islands deep inside Chesapeake Bay.

Isabel was a Category 2 storm Wednesday, although sustained wind had eased slightly to about 105 mph. During the weekend, the storm had 160 mph wind and held the top Category 5 rating on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

Forecasters predicted little change in strength before Isabel, the biggest storm to hit the region since Hurricane Floyd in 1999, makes landfall

sometime Thursday morning along the Outer Banks, the thin, 120-mile-long chain of islands.

“Right now, the forecast calls for it to maintain the intensity it’s at currently,” meteorologist Bill Read said at the National Hurricane Center.

A 7- to 11-foot storm surge was expected near the area where the center strikes the North Carolina coast, with a 7-foot surge likely inside southern Chesapeake Bay in Virginia, the hurricane center said.

Weather changes schedules

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The expected path of Hurricane Isabel has prompted NASCAR to cancel the on-track activities at Dover International Speedway scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Cancellations include qualifying for both the Winston Cup and Busch series, as well as the Busch North Series race, none of which will be rescheduled.

The 43-car fields for the Winston Cup and Busch races will be determined by owner championship points, the same as any normal rain situation.

The Busch cars will get an early morning one-hour practice on Saturday, followed by a 75-minute practice session for the Winston Cup cars. A one-hour final practice for the Cup cars will follow Saturday's 200-mile Busch Series race, which will be run as scheduled, beginning at 1 p.m.

Sunday's schedule remains intact.

The Baltimore Orioles also made adjustments because of the hurricane.

They will play the New York Yankees during the day Thursday instead of at night to avoid the worst of Isabel.

The game was rescheduled for 12:35 p.m. after the team consulted with the commissioner's office and Yankees officials.

Officials will wait to see how the storm progresses before making any changes to Friday's game against the Blue Jays, Orioles spokesman Kevin Behan said.

Meanwhile, the NFL Baltimore Ravens decided to leave the city, flying to San Diego two days early for their game against the Chargers.

Aggies look to slow Hokies' run

The Dallas Morning News

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Any team would worry about its run defense before playing Virginia Tech. The Hokies have ranked in the top 20 in the nation in rushing six of the past 10 seasons.

Texas A&M (2-0) faces the added uncertainty of having allowed 157 second-half rushing yards in its last game and of fielding an inexperienced, reshuffled linebacking unit.

The Aggies' task Thursday night in Blacksburg, Va., is

tough but clear. Stop the run — or else.

"Basically, the starting point for them is their running game," coach Dennis Franchione said. "If you can get them in bad down-and-distance situations, you get a chance to dictate the flow of the game. ... They're not going to go away from the run."

Virginia Tech (2-0) can throw the ball — in fact, the Hokies have more passing than rushing yards this season. But A&M coaches stressed that Virginia Tech's

offense, balanced as it is, still revolves around the run.

"You want to try to put them in passing situations early," defensive coordinator Carl Torbush said.

The Hokies boast an experienced offensive line, a good blocking fullback, a mobile quarterback in Bryan Randall and a proven star in running back Kevin Jones.

Torbush's respect for Virginia Tech's running game shows when he discusses how to defend Ernest Wilford, the athletic 6-4 receiver whose 52-yard catch set up the only touchdown in the Hokies' 13-3 win at A&M last season.

Shock: Detroit wins WNBA title

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Bill Laimbeer had a plastic cup of champagne in his left hand and a trophy in his right.

More than a decade after the "Bad Boys" center helped the Pistons win two NBA titles, Laimbeer was a champion again as the coach of the last-to-first Detroit Shock.

Ruth Riley scored a career-high 27 points and Detroit beat the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks 83-78 on Tuesday

night in the decisive third game of the WNBA Finals.

The Shock won a league-best 25 regular-season games this season, one year after losing a league-worst 23. "It all starts with Coach," said Riley, the series MVP.

An hour after red, white and blue confetti fluttered through the air and fireworks exploded, Laimbeer was still celebrating.

"I have my championships, so this one is really for the ladies," he said. "As a coach, it doesn't get any better than this."

The game drew a WNBA-record crowd of 22,076, breaking the mark of 19,563 set in the 2000 finals between New York and Houston.

The Palace, also the home of the Pistons, changed its address from 2 to 3 Championship Drive after the game.

Shock President Tom Wilson has said Laimbeer, who took over the team when it was 0-10 last year, saved the franchise because his presence prevented it from moving or folding.

Scores/standings

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	94	58	.618	—
Florida	83	67	.553	10
Philadelphia	83	68	.550	10 1/2
Montreal	77	75	.507	17
New York	63	87	.420	30
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	82	68	.547	—
Chicago	81	70	.536	1 1/2
St. Louis	78	74	.513	5
Pittsburgh	69	81	.460	13
Cincinnati	65	86	.430	17 1/2
Milwaukee	64	87	.424	18 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	92	57	.617	—
Los Angeles	80	69	.537	12
Arizona	78	73	.517	15
Colorado	68	83	.450	25
San Diego	59	91	.393	33 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
Tuesday's Games
 Montreal 5, Atlanta 4, 10 innings

Cincinnati 12, Pittsburgh 4
 Philadelphia 14, Florida 0
 Chicago Cubs 3, N.Y. Mets 2
 St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 5
 Houston 14, Colorado 4
 Arizona 3, Los Angeles 2
 San Francisco 4, San Diego 2
Wednesday's Games
 N.Y. Mets at Chicago Cubs
 Atlanta at Montreal
 Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
 Florida at Philadelphia
 Milwaukee at St. Louis
 Houston at Colorado
 Arizona at Los Angeles
 San Diego at San Francisco

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	94	57	.623	—
Boston	88	62	.587	5 1/2
Toronto	77	73	.513	16 1/2
Baltimore	67	83	.447	26 1/2
Tampa Bay	59	91	.393	34 1/2
Central Division				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	82	69	.543	—
Chicago	80	70	.533	1 1/2
Kansas City	78	72	.520	3 1/2
Cleveland	65	87	.428	17 1/2
Detroit	38	112	.253	43 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	91	61	.599	—
Seattle	86	65	.570	4 1/2
Anaheim	72	80	.474	19
Texas	67	84	.444	23 1/2
Tuesday's Games				
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2				
Toronto 9, Detroit 6				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 3				
Kansas City 12, Cleveland 8				
Texas 10, Seattle 5				
Minnesota 5, Chicago White Sox 2				
Anaheim 6, Oakland 5				
Wednesday's Games				
Oakland at Anaheim				
Tampa Bay at Boston				
Toronto at Detroit				
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore				
Kansas City at Cleveland				
Seattle at Texas				
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota				